

Table 2

Indications for neuroimaging before lumbar puncture (LP) in suspected meningitis (from the UK joint specialist societies guideline on the management of meningitis and meningococcal sepsis in immunocompetent adults)* ³

- Focal neurological signs
- Presence of papilloedema **
- Continuous or uncontrolled seizures
- Glasgow Coma Scale score ≤ 12 ***

* to exclude significant brain swelling and shift that may predispose to cerebral herniation post LP

** inability to view the fundus is not a contraindication to LP, especially in patients who have had a short duration of symptoms

*** LP without prior neuroimaging may be safe at levels below this